

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1348
By McCord

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Jim Kirk of Blount County upon being selected to receive the Education Consumers Foundation's Value-Added Achievement Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those outstanding professionals who have dedicated their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Jim Kirk is most assuredly one such superlative professional who, after serving with distinction as principal at Alcoa Middle School in Alcoa, Tennessee, was selected to receive the Education Consumers Foundation's Value-Added Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, unlike most education awards, the Value-Added Achievement Award is based solely on objectively measured achievement gain and accompanied by a \$1,000 to \$3,000 cash prize; it recognizes that, for the past three years, Alcoa Middle has been among the most effective of Tennessee's more than 1,300 elementary and middle schools in teaching reading/language arts and mathematics; and

WHEREAS, as sponsor of the award, Education Consumers Foundation is a consumer organization for parents, taxpayers, and their elected representatives; the members gather and disseminate independent information about schools and colleges via their website; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation's reason for conferring these awards in Tennessee is that Tennessee's Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS) is arguably the most mature and sophisticated in the nation, and one of the very few which enables consumers to see for themselves which schools are producing the best results; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Value-Added Achievement Award is to give recognition to those schools and to encourage others to imitate them, as well as to encourage other states to adopt accountability systems that are equally accurate and consumer-friendly; and

WHEREAS, within each of Tennessee's three Grand Divisions, the top three elementary schools and the top three middle schools, including K-8s, were selected on the basis of their most recent three-year-average achievement gains in math and reading/language arts; schools with principals serving fewer than five years were excluded; and

WHEREAS, Principal Jim Kirk has been recognized as the most effective principal in grades six through eight in the State's Eastern division; the Value-Added Award targets principals because the school's performance is a reflection of their leadership and teamwork among the faculty; and

WHEREAS, Principal Kirk received \$3,000 for taking the top honor, and said unless it is a mandated expenditure, he plans to put it aside for teacher incentive rewards, "because they're the ones who've worked so hard"; and

WHEREAS, Governor Bredeson presented the Education Consumers Foundation's Value-Added Achievement Award during a ceremony at the State Capitol in the old Tennessee Supreme Court chamber on Monday, May 8, 2006, at 2:00 p.m.; it was the first presentation of these awards, which recognized the principals and schools who are not only saying, but actively demonstrating, that "all children can learn"; and

WHEREAS, Principal Kirk is an extremely talented and compassionate administrator who has worked assiduously to motivate his students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; he serves as an inspiration to his colleagues and students alike, and his friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know him; and

WHEREAS, Jim Kirk truly epitomizes the dedicated principal who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for his students, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Principal Jim Kirk of Alcoa Middle School upon being selected to receive the Education Consumers Foundation's Value-Added Achievement Award, salute him for his generous dedication to his students and his community, and offer our heartfelt wishes for every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.